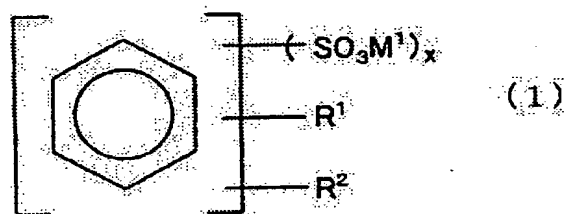


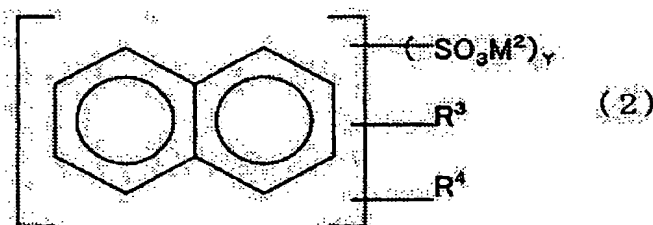
CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An ink composition, characterized by containing water, metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye, and aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof represented by undermentioned general formula (1) and/or (2).

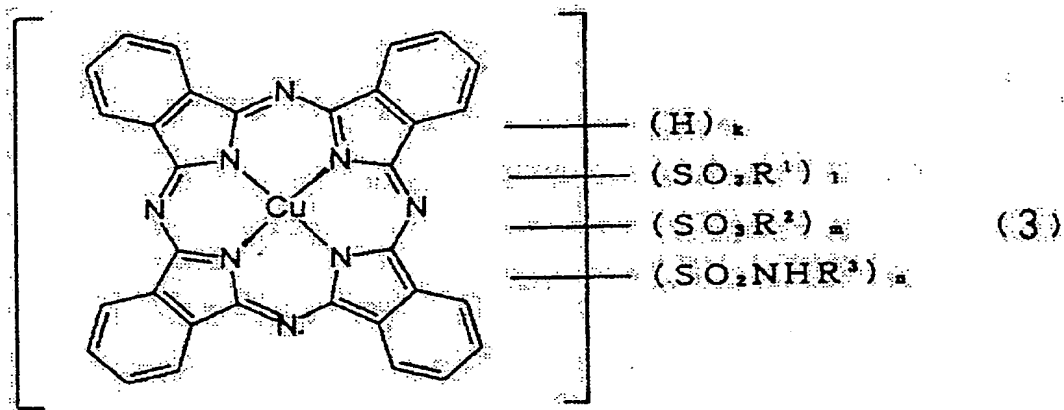


(In the formula, M^1 represents a counter ion forming a salt, X represents an integer from 1 to 3, and R^1 and R^2 each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different.)



(In the formula, M^2 represents a counter ion forming a salt, Y represents an integer from 1 to 4, and R^3 and R^4 each represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an alkoxy group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and R^3 and R^4 may be the same or different.)

2. The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is copper phthalocyanine type dye represented by undermentioned formula (3).



(In the formula, R¹ represents H, an alkali metal or -NH₄, R² represents an alkali metal or -NH₄, and R³ represents H, an optionally substituted alkyl group or an optionally substituted aryl group; moreover, k, l and n each represents a natural number from 0 to 3, and m represents a natural number from 1 to 4, and k+l+m+n = 4.)

3. The ink composition according to claim 2, wherein the copper phthalocyanine type dye is C.I. Direct Blue 86, 87 and/or 199.

4. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 3, wherein the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is a dye for which the absorption spectrum in the visible region (400 to 800 nm) has a maximum absorption peak at a wavelength in a range of 590 to 650 nm.

5. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 4, wherein the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is a dye for which the absorption spectrum in the visible region (400 to 800 nm) has a maximum absorption peak at a wavelength in a range of 590 to 615 nm.

6. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 5, wherein the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye is a dye for which the absorption spectrum in the visible region (400 to 800 nm) has a maximum absorption peak at a wavelength in a range of 590 to 605 nm.

7. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 6, wherein the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof has two sulfo groups.

8. The ink composition according to claim 7, wherein the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof is at least one selected from the group consisting of benzene-1,3-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-1,5-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-1,6-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-2,6-disulfonic acid, naphthalene-2,7-disulfonic acid, and naphthalene-1,3,6-trisulfonic acid, and salts thereof.

9. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 8, wherein the salt of the aromatic compound having a sulfo group is an alkali metal salt.

10. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 9, containing 0.1 to 10 wt% of the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof relative to the total amount of the ink composition.

11. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 10, wherein the content ratio between the metal phthalocyanine type cyan dye and the aromatic compound having a sulfo group and/or salt thereof is in a range of 1:0.1 to 1:10.

12. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 11, further containing a nonionic surfactant.

13. The ink composition according to claim 12, wherein the nonionic surfactant is an acetylene glycol type surfactant.

14. The ink composition according to claim 12 or 13, containing 0.1 to 5 wt% of the nonionic surfactant relative to the total amount of the ink composition.

15. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 14, further containing a penetrating agent.

16. The ink composition according to claim 15, wherein the penetrating agent is a glycol ether.

17. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 16, wherein the ink composition has a pH at 20°C in a range of 8.0 to 10.5.

18. The ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 17, used in an ink jet recording method.

5 19. The ink composition according to claim 18, wherein the ink jet recording method is a recording method using an ink jet head that forms ink droplets through mechanical deformation of electrostrictive elements.

20. An ink cartridge, characterized by comprising the ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 19.

10 21. An ink jet recording method, comprising carrying out recording by discharging droplets of an ink composition and attaching the droplets to a recording medium, the ink jet recording method characterized by using the ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 19 as the ink composition.

15 22. A recorded article, characterized by being obtained by recording using the ink composition according to any of claims 1 through 19.